

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
East Windsor High School – Room N4**

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair C. Simonelli called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair C. Simonelli led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ATTENDANCE

In attendance: Chair C. Simonelli, Vice Chair R. Reichle, Secretary K. Carey-Trull, W. Raber, D. Swaim, F. Neill, S. Andrews, C. Sevarino, Dr. C. DeBarge

Absent: K. Bilodeau

Also present: Dr. P. Tudryn, D. Rouillard, W. Gage, Student Representative R. Syme, community members

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

1. 2019-2020 EWPS School Calendar Update
2. COVID-19 Update

On a motion by W. Raber, 2nd by D. Swaim, the Board voted to approve the 2019-2020 EWPS School Calendar Update added agenda item. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by F. Neill, 2nd by S. Andrews, the Board voted to approve the COVID-19 Update added agenda update. The vote was unanimous.

V. MINUTES

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by D. Swaim, the Board approved the February 26, 2020 regular meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

VII. SCHOOL REPORT

Broad Brook Elementary School – The report was cancelled for this evening.

VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student Representative R. Syme shared the news and events at all three schools.

IX. PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board reviewed the current report provided in their meeting packet.

K. Bilodeau joined the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

X. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Paquette reported the surplus will continue to fluctuate due to changes in transportation and special education tuition costs.

Food Service Update:

- Revenue is down
- \$19,000 decrease in expenses at this time, which is trending positively

XI. CURRICULUM REPORT

D. Rouillard provided an update on the Portrait of the Graduate:

- Informed Life-Long Learners
- Self-Aware Individual
- Responsible Citizens

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE

1. FY20 Budget – This is a standing item on the BOE agenda. There was no action to be taken this evening.
2. FY21 Budget – There is no update other than to report that L. Slate, HR Manager, has reached out to our insurance representative, Russ Stone, to inquire if other companies have responded to our request for insurance quotes. There have been no other responses, other than the response from the state, which we reported at a prior meeting. We are still waiting on information on the state plan.
3. 2019-2020 EWPS School Calendar Update/COVID-19 Update – Dr. C. DeBarge will compartmentalize these two items as they are associated with one another. She reported her participation in recent meetings and phone conferences with state and health agencies regarding COVID-19 updates. Local superintendents are implementing plans for continuity of instruction in the event schools are closed. We are devising a plan for distant/online learning, but our staff will require time to put lessons together for students. She is requesting the addition of an added early release day on March 17 to allow teachers to plan their lessons. Her wish is that when we submit the required 180-day waiver to the state, our distant learning days will count toward our required 180 student school days, should we have to close schools.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by D. Swaim, the Board voted to accept the inclusion of an early release day on March 17 on the 2019-2020 EWPS School Calendar to allow staff to plan lessons. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. C. DeBarge also noted guidance is pending relative to the flexibility by the USDA to continue to serve meals to our families during a school closure.

She publicly thanked W. Gage, Health Care Coordinator, for all her recent work to research and update staff and parents on the COVID-19 issue.

W. Gage noted her constant correspondence with Patrice Sulik, Director of the North Central District Health Department (NCHD), which covers the towns of Enfield, Ellington, Vernon, Windsor, Windsor Locks, East Windsor, etc. She has reviewed our district process/plan as to safeguard the district from the virus. She will continue to share updated information as it becomes available.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE

1. Policy Updates:

- a. 3152 Spending Public Funds for Advocacy
- b. 3453 School Activity Fund/Funds Management

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board voted to waive a second reading of policy 3152 Spending Public Funds for Advocacy. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board voted to accept the changes to policy 3152 Spending Public Funds for Advocacy as presented. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board voted to waive a second reading of policy 3453 School Activity Fund/Funds Management. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by F. Neill, the Board voted to accept the changes to policy 3453 School Activity Fund/Funds Management as presented. The vote was unanimous.

XV. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

COVID-19 Update

Dr. C. DeBarge provided additional updates on the COVID-19 Virus:

- She noted her participation in a phone conference with the Governor’s Office on Monday evening
- She noted her recent attendance at a North Central District Health meeting in Enfield
- Weekly meetings/phone conferences with North Central District Health going forward
- Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will continue to provide directives to districts relative to testing, waivers, distant learning, etc.
- Recommendation to disinfect district buildings using approved disinfecting products
- Recent receipt of clarification on Green Cleaning policy - We can now use disinfecting wipes in the classrooms
- The CSDE and Governor’s Office have made the following recommendations:
 - No gatherings over 100 participants
 - No out-of-state travel by students/staff
 - No out-of-state visitors into buildings/offices
- She will be cancelling the following:
 - All out-of-state field trips (Virginia Beach, Washington D.C.)
 - Plays
 - Upcoming parent/teacher conferences in the current format
- At this time, all small after-school clubs will not be canceled
- As of today, all outdoor athletic events will be conducted as usual
- The Governor’s Office reported the Insurance Commission was monitoring how trip insurance policies were being followed
- We will take this matter one day at a time due to the fast-paced changes we have encountered
- She has yet to inform the staff of this updated information, being she wanted to share the information with the Board prior to doing so - She will share the information with all district staff and parents tomorrow via email

XVI. LIAISONS' REPORTS

C. Sevarino reported her attendance at the recent FRC meeting. Items discussed:

- Enrollment
- Evening programs
- Home visits
- Book Buddy celebration
- \$5.00 tuition fee increase (There hasn't been a tuition fee increase in the past 3 years)
- Discussion of 50% reimbursement to parents with elongated student absences

F. Neill reminded the Board that Girl Scout cookie sales are still in progress.

XVII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. C. DeBarge noted a third Connecticut resident has tested positive for the COVID-19 Virus.

Chair C. Simonelli noted her husband's participation as a judge at the recent EWMS Invention Convention competition in her absence. She provided kudos to our students and staff relative to the event.

XIX. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Enrollment
2. Calendars of Events
3. Letters: Donation/Student Commendations

XX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session this evening.

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by D. Swaim, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik
Recording Secretary

Approved: 4/8/20